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Fetch me the bellyboard, Mavis, I'm going in... No let-up for the Great British summer as beach-lovers make a splash with back-to-basics plywood

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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Even when the sun disappears behind the clouds and the skies turn grey, here in England there are always those who will take advantage of beach-time activity.

And that's exactly what happened today at the World Bellyboard Championships at Chapel Porth in Cornwall.

Over a hundred bellyboard surfers of all ages and all on traditional wooden bellyboards gathered for the annual charity event organised for the National Trust and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).



Here we go: A female belly-boarder gets set to do her thing in the World Bellyboard Championships

Daily Mail Reporter. (2010, September 6). Battle of the Bellyboard: No let up for the Great British summer as beach-lovers make a splash with back-to-basics plywood. Daily Mail Online. Chapel Porth in Cornwall. Retrieved from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1309281/Battle-Bellyboard-No-let-Great-British-summer-beach-lovers-make-splash-basics-plywood.html>. Accessed: 2010-09-06 12:51:30



Brave the cold: The annual Bellyboard event in Cornwall was attended by people of various ages



Enter into the unknown: The grey skies failed to deter people from entering the waters in Cornwall

The World Belly Boarding Championship (WBBC) was first started in 2002 at Chapel Porth by Martyn Ward and Chris Ryan as a memorial contest to the late Arthur Traveller, a Londoner who holidayed with his wooden board at Chapel Porth every year.

From its humble beginnings with only a handful of competitors it has now grown into the World Championships we see today with over 200 entrants.

The boards should be made of wood, with fibreglass and composites acceptable in the expression sessions as are fins, flippers, small skegs, Alaia boards and Paipo's.

However, organisers expect a more traditional 1ft wide plywood board to be considered for the Arthur Traveller Memorial Trophy.



Undeterred: Participants show no fear as they get ready with their Bellyboards



Making a splash: With cap on and board under her arm, this female gets set to embrace the water



Time to shine: It's the men's turn next into the water at the annual championships

Since the 1920s Cornwall has been the focus for surfing in the UK when surfers originally used the wooden 'belly boards' on which they would lie down - only later did they start standing up and the modern sport was born.

Robyn Davies, contest director and NT surf guru said: 'The event has gone truly global in recent years with entrants from Australia, New York, San Francisco and British Virgin Islands.

'It continues to grow from strength to strength, yet we hope remain connected to it's fun roots.'



All smiles: One man turns tide and decides to board back to shore



Mugshot: The males pose for the camera, in colourful outfits, before they enter the water



Slide 'n' splash: Not to be outdone, the ladies try to impress in the manoeuvres

In the competition there are approximately 20-30 heats of up to eight people per heat. The length of heat to be 10 or 15 minutes depending on the number of entrants.

Judges look for the length of ride, wave selection, change of direction, style and the most radical manoeuvres

in the most critical part of the wave. i.e the curl.



Rocky start: Enthusiasm appears somewhat downcast at the start of the annual event - just like the weather in Cornwall; But smiles were soon restored to the faces of the competitors

This is the sort of thing I miss -living in a country choc-a bloc with eccentrics! Long may they reign.

- ex-pat, Portugal, 06/9/2010 08:38

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